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GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

March 22, 1967

Perry Raymond Russo

ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

PROCEEDINGS OF

MARCH 22, 1967

PRESENT: MESSRS. ALVIN V. OSER AND JAMES ALCOCK,  
Assistant District Attorneys

MEMBERS OF THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

WITNESS:

PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO

\* \* \* \* \*

Reported By:  
Maureen B. Thiel,  
Secretary  
Orleans Parish Grand Jury

PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO, being duly sworn in by the Foreman of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, was questioned and answered as follows:

BY MR. ALVIN OSER:

Q. Give us your full name please?

A. Perry Raymond Russo

Q. Where do you live?

A. 311 East State St., Baton Rouge

Q. What is your occupation?

A. I work in sales for the Equitable Life Assurance Society

Q. Did you know Dave Ferrie?

A. Yes sir.

Q. When did you first meet him?

A. About 1960-61, during that period of time.

Q. Here in New Orleans?

A. In Kenner - which is New Orleans to me.

Q. What was your occupation during that time?

A. A student.

Q. Where?

A. I was beginning at Tulane in September, 1959.

Q. Do you know what Ferrie's occupation was at this time?

A. Well Al told me he was an Eastern Airlines pilot.

Q. Who is Al?

A. Al Landry - that is how I met him - I used to play baseball  
Al  
and basketball with/over at High School in the back yard

where there was a big open field behind the School, and we used to play a lot of ball and he talked about this guy for weeks.

Q. Dave Ferrie?

A. Dave - I did not know him - and Al built him up high - he was a leader of an Air Patrol Unit, or a group, and he said why don't you come out and see him. I kept putting him off - and would say OK I will next week or the week after that, or tomorrow maybe - I kept putting him off and I went over one night to see Al and his family told me about Dave - they kept saying Al was running away from home - he turned out to be a bad bad, he really wasn't - Al was a pretty good guy except that he was confused. That's the way I took it. And I would say well, if he wants to run he will always come back or he will tell me where he is. I said well I'll call you all but keep it in strict confidence because Al won't like this but I will let you know so I went out to Dave's house - I took the next invitation, and went out to his house in Kenner.

Q. This was when Dave lived in Kenner?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recognize this picture?

A. That is Dave.

Q. David Ferrie?

A. Yes.

Q. How many occasions did you go to Dave Ferrie's apartment?

A. Out there in Kenner?

A. Yes.

A. Once that I can remember - I don't think I went out there again because I just don't think I went out there again, maybe I did, but I don't think so.

Q. Describe for the jury just what type individual Dave Ferrie was, as you saw him and as you knew him. How was he?

A. Dave wanted praise - he wanted people to think he was a great guy, and he had all this stuff behind him, and he could do things that other people couldn't, and when I went out to Kenner all the stuff that Al had told me he went to great length to prove to me because Al had told him about me as I was a little bit skeptical - and I didn't like people to be built up big like that. And Al for weeks had talked about him for so long and so I was looking for ways to shoot him down, ways to pick at him.

So I went out there and when I left I was impressed - he showed me five degrees, I was just getting started in

college, and two of them were doctorate degrees and right then I began talking to him at the meeting and he sorta took me and some other friends of mine apart to try to impress me I guess, I don't know what his reasons were and we talked and I told him some of the things I believed in politics - you know stuff about Chep Morrison and how I felt about New Orleans and stuff like that. That was the last real time we had any kind of discussion because he tells me ... I would say Dave I read somewhere that such was the case in the past or something about Eisenhower or Morrison or somebody and he would say oh, no, he would say go look at the Library and get this book and he would say make sure its the second edition, published in 1947 - I am just picking out a date - and you look in that book and turn to page 350 - I never did do that but if a man has done that he is way out on a limb - cause all you have to do is go look it up - agriculture, you know ...

Q. In your opinion, Dave Ferrie was a well read individual?

A. Absolutely. He could cite chapters of verse on anything. He later on told me he could cure leukemia, he could cure cancer - we didn't talk much about that because my mother had died of cancer and he told me he could cure all these diseases. He said they wouldn't let him in a hospital

He said he could commit the perfect murder - and he said he knew all about autopsies, he could inject chemicals - that is why I did not believe he died accidentally. I am not saying he didn't, but he said he could inject a chemical right in the bottom of the ankle, in some big vein or something, and this chemical would then work its way eventually up to the brain - the same thing he died of he said he could do that. clot, and And he said it would/either make a man a vegetable or it would kill him. And if it killed him they would have to do an autopsy within 24 hours and if they didn't then the chemicals would dissipate. He hypnotized Landry the first night - you know, the first time I had ever seen him he hypnotized Al and with just .. like that - I knew a little about hypnosis - but he hypnotized Al the first night and stuck pins in him - stuck the protractor in and he just stuck that through his hand here, no blood, you know that is pushing. To me - that was to sit back and listen.

Q. Perry, did he ever talk about aphrodisiac in different type chemicals?

A. He never had a roommate - this was when he moved - and nobody ever lived with him.

Q. When was this?



A. During the times I knew him in 1962-63. He had his mother living with him in Kenner so he said - I met her once. So he talked about - he came over one night to my house - and he said he had concocted this new drug and said this drug had real great results and he went through a long story of what aphrodisiacs and Spanish flies were and he said there were no such things for human beings because they work on a different level. You know sex excitement on different levels - and he said he had tried it - had tried it on his roommate - and up to that point I didn't know he had a roommate - You know I had been up there - and nobody had been around - and all of a sudden he had a roommate. Now he never said anything about homosexual stuff - but I just got this idea because he said the man made love to him - so I got the idea he had to be a homosexual too. But he did not say anything about this. He never talked about Landry ever again after that. He said that he had tried the drug on him and his roommate woke up the next day and didn't remember anything, didn't remember anything he had done that whole night. He said that it would be a great thing - you know if you would get it into parties - well at that time I was always having young people around the house, they'd run up to the house and maybe

we'd run up to Tulane and play some more basketball - baseball in the afternoons and basketball at night. And he wanted to use it on them and I said no stay away from that - you know, my mother died of cancer and she never took anything except when the doctor, Dr. Michel, just ordered her to. She was kinda funny about drugs because of pain probably - she had a rough time the last month - she did take a few things - but not all they told her too. I said no, if they want to do it you take them over to their house and do it - start around here with that stuff and then everybody would start saying I am a drug addict or something. He asked me if I wanted to take it and I said no.

Q. Perry, when was the first time that you saw Lee Harvey Oswald at Ferrie's apartment?

A. Sometime in September about the middle of 1963.

Q. What was the occasion for first seeing Oswald?

A. Well, Dave came down to my house or called me up and said are you coming up and I said yes, and so I just said I'll be over and he said I'll give you a ride because I did not have a car at that time. We drove up and I didn't know anything about a roommate - and he came up and this guy was sitting on the porch - somebody

was sitting out on the porch and he said he likes to sit out on the porch and he said he just sits out there and thinks a lot - with no lights on - and in the dark - and I just figured he didn't work or something. He must have seen us because he then went inside - the lights turned on in the front room and so we had to come up the stairway and we came in the front room and he introduced us. He was sitting down about as far as this table from us and he was either polishing or cleaning or doing something with a rifle. Dave said he was kinda funny, never did elaborate because, you know, a guy sitting out on the porch in the dark - and Dave said he did that a lot - Dave just said he was kinda funny.

Q. Were you able to strike up a friendship with Oswald?

A. No. I walked in there and he was sitting down about 20 feet away in an old raggedy old chair, half sofa, and he was sitting down and I walked in and Dave said this is a friend of mine from Elysian Fields, he goes to school, or something to that effect and Dave told me that this Leon Oswald was a friend of his- so then he said you bring another one of these pricks up here?

So I said, listen Dave, as far as I am concerned I don't

want to come here anyway - said I would rather go home because he had to give me a ride so I said I would just rather go home. That eased out and finally his roommate, Oswald, said I am going out I will see you later, or something to that effect.

Q. This roommate was introduced to you by Ferrie as being Leon Oswald?

A. Yes.

Q. What was his description when you saw him?

A. He had a polo white shirt, but it was not a T-shirt, it was some kind of dirty knit shirt, but it was white, and it was dirty, and he had a full week's growth of beard or maybe 5 days, just depends ... and he had whiskers and his hair was all messed up and he was real dirty. And he had a real nasty attitude.

Q. Do you recognize that picture?

A. That is the same guy.

Q. This is the guy that you were introduced to as Leon Oswald by Dave Ferrie in Ferrie's apartment?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you describe the gun that Leon Oswald was fooling with in the apartment, as best as you can recall it?

A. It was a rifle. I had a 22 rifle my father had given me - I never did really go hunting, but it was a bolt action I knew what bolt actions were - I don't know if it was

a 22 or not and it had a telescopic site on it which I figured was for hunting. It was a fairly ... dirty brown stock and could have been real good plastic or it could have been wood - I just didn't get real close to it - he offered to show it to me. You know, his prize. A few minutes later I sat at one end of the room and he sat at the other and Dave went into the kitchen or bedroom and a few minutes later he went into the bedroom and he said he was going to leave..

Q. During this time, or at any time, did Ferrie make any comment about Leon Oswald liking guns, or anything like that?

A. About liking guns?

A. Yes, Oswald?

A. He said he was a bug about guns. But I think he told me that downstairs. He may have said it in the apartment - he said he was a bug - said he was kinda peculiar - he wasn't old, looked to me about 25, maybe even younger than that - lots of guys at Tulane had whiskers on like this. Said he read a lot and would think a lot. Said he would sit on the porch at night after finishing reading and just sit and think.

Q. Did you see Oswald with any other type of gun?

A. A pistol once - but I don't know if these were his now.

Q. You saw him with it?

A. Yes

Q. How many times did you see Oswald in Ferrie's apartment?

A. About four times.

Q. This was the first time?

A. Yes.

Q. When was the second time?

A. Three or four days later.

Q. In Ferrie's apartment?

A. Yes - just barged in, you know me and some others - there was a gang of people around because Ferrie associated with some real quacks, I thought, everybody was a little bit off-key, some of them. We just barged in, everybody was drinking, joking, listening to the record player and just talking and he was there too - dressed the same way.

Q. When was the third time?

A. I saw him toward the end of the month just for a few minutes

Q. Where was this?

A. Up at Ferrie's house.

Q. Will you explain to the jury what type of relationships were going on - by relationship I mean everybody going to each other's houses and this type of thing?

A. Well, I had my own baseball team, but it wasn't organized - for the last three or four years I had an organized team - with uniforms and everything like that - but in these years I had a team and we had played McDonogh and any team that wanted to play us, I had another team we called the Mau-Maus, they were the Franklin Ave. boys and they would come over and we would play them but anyway occasionally everybody would come over to my house or we would go to some other people's houses for maybe five or ten minutes, or maybe we would all go out to the Lake Front and go swimming or whatever we wanted to do or go up to Tulane and most of the time we went up to Tulane and would drop by Dave's house and Dave went to great lengths to make friends, I thought. He said we just come in at any time. I had a feeling that although I wasn't seeing Al at this time, I think he was in the Air Force, that Dave's Civil Air Patrol had busted up. So he went to great lengths to cultivate a friendship and we had had bad words the first time and he did a lot to try and repair us. He could not afford

to antagonize me. I was through with him the first time and I just said well, now Al has broken up with Dave, that was 1961 I guess, now they split up and Mrs. Landry and them like me so we had some bad words then and he went to great lengths to become friends. I was a little bit suspicious because he wanted some kind of outlet because Al told me that he always denied it up to the point he broke up with Ferrie because he said that Ferrie was hypnotizing these guys in the Civil Air Patrol, back when they had a Civil Air Patrol, and was having sexual relations with them. Now ... back to our normal activities, we had parties, by that I mean anybody dropped by, 3 or 4 people that was a party to me, it was just a talking party, lots of times I would read stuff and I would tell everybody what I read if it was an intellectual crowd, if it was baseball, well I used to read all the baseball books and I would - and there was this friend of mine, Peterson, and I would sit and argue for hours and hours on all sorts of teams and everybody would run to everybody's place, now Peterson had a place - he moved around lots - but he had a place, Miles Peterson, called "Lefty", now Lefty had a place that we would always go visit, he lived alone had no



family, except his brother in New Orleans, and his mother died a long time ago, his father disappeared or something like that - and we would go to his place because nobody caused him problems and nobody would get mad at us or anything like that. Whenever we finished playing basketball or up at Tulane for swimming we would come on over and drop in at David's - sometimes only for a few minutes - and David .....

Q. Well, now let's get down to the middle of September, 1963, did you have occasion to drop in David's apartment while a party was going on?

A. Yes, that was the second time I was ... I saw Oswald.

Q. Second time you saw Oswald?

A. Yes.

Q. Who all were there when you went to this party and what do you mean when you say a party?

A. Well, a party, just everybody just sitting around and talking and maybe drinking a drink and shoot the breeze about one thing or another, then it was a party. Nothing very formal because we have parties in Baton Rouge the same way - everybody just sits around and talks and that was the case. I just barged in . Dave had taken great pains never to antagonize me - he did it once and we

had words about that on Bourbon St. So even we were not invited, we were. He could not ask me to leave he knew that because I had never - he would come over at 3:00 o'clock in the morning sometimes over at the apartment and I have never put anybody out. He would come over there and we would sit and shoot the breeze a while and then I would start I am a little tired and want to go in and he would leave. He never would put me out, I knew that. So we just barged in. I was with Peterson and Sandra Moffett and we just came on in and everybody was just sitting around - Spanish guys, his roommate was there, Shaw was there, but that wasn't his name, and Ferrie and they had these two young boys, a couple of young guys....

Q. This man you were introduced to, called Shaw, how were you introduced to him?

A. Well, Ferrie introduced me to everybody - Shaw was sitting there - he might have said something like Perry Russo is a student and all that stuff right down the line and this is so-and-so....

Q. What did he call Shaw?

A. Well he called him Clem Bertrand.

Q. Clem Bertrand?

A. Clem Bertrand.

Q. At any time did you know the person you now know  
as Shaw - did you know him as any other name/other  
than  
Clem Bertrand?

A. Not until March 1.

Q. Until the day of his arrest?

A. Well Andy told me his real name.

Q. Up until that time you always knew this individual as  
Clem Bertrand?

A. Yes.

Q. You want to look at this photograph?

A. That is the same man -

Q. And you knew him as Clem Bertrand?

A. Yes.

Q. Before this night how many times have you seen Clem  
Bertrand, who is Clay Shaw, before this?

A. Before the party?

A. Yes.

A. Once

Q. How many times after this party you are talking about?

A. Well I saw him a few times over here on Dauphine St.  
once at the service station and I saw him at the  
trial.

Q. let's go back - take the first time you saw the man

you knew as Clem Bertrand, who is Clay Shaw, when was the first time you saw him?

A. I saw him at Nashville Wharf when I went to see President Kennedy speak.

Q. When was this?

A. 1961.

Q. How do you remember him?

A. Well, I thought I was late - Kennedy was late getting there to make a speech - I was running and rushing, and trying to get over there from school, I had to wait until class got over - I had seen Eisenhower long time ago - think it was the Sesquicentennial, or something, I think he had a bubble top, and I didn't get a good look, but this time I wanted a look at the President - so I went there and got there a little late - and all a sudden I hear the sirens coming and everybody runs for the sides to see President Kennedy so he came and went up to make his speech and I was halfway listening as I was looking at him more really and then I got tired of it, not really tired, I had seen him and that was good - I could always say I had seen the President - so I was in the back of the group - as I got there a little late and people were jammed in and I noticed this guy -

standing there with another guy - both dressed real good - and he had something on like corduroy material but with stripes in it - real rich looking - corduroy looks like paper, but it didn't look like paper, something like that. The President was up there talking, like at this ashtray, and there was about 600 or 800 people right here, then I got in late and everybody ran over to the side of the Hangar and they looked out the side and President Kennedy drove up and he got out the front and jumped up there and automatically you could feel it was him - I think he wore a blue suit or something - I am not sure of that - he had a real suntan - real striking . But anyway I was in the back and I have 20-13 vision - I have been examined - and I know it. I have real good baseball vision - I can see things real clearly and I don't need to stand real close to see a guy, that's for sure. Now in front of me were these two guys. He was one of them and I don't know who the other guy was. He wasn't watching the President and I thought he has to be a secret service man for he was watching everything but the President. I made that remark to

whoever I was there with - because he was watching everything but the President - I said I never saw a President in reality before but he was watching everything but.

Q. What was your impression besides his being a secret service man?

A. He looked everything below the belt - he was moonlighting a little bit - you know he was looking everything below the belt - he was sizing up the guys - I was with Lefty - he met me there - and I was with a guy from Loyola, but I don't recall his name, and he was just looking below the belt and he put you at unease, you know, just kept staring down like that and then these two young boys back there about my age, I guess, but young men and he got into a conversation with one of them - one of them was away - and the other one came back and then they evidently decided they wanted to leave and he went back to his buddy and was standing there and talking to him and he kept looking around, looking at all the people, he looked below the belt, and I got the impression that he was homosexual.

Q. When was the next time you saw him?

Q. When was the next time you saw him after this?

A. I saw him at a service station that Ferrie was working in.

Q. Tell the jury the facts of your seeing him at the service station?

A. I was having trouble with my car at that time - I had some old \$50.00 automobile - it was the second semester of the 63-64 school year. I was in a rush and having trouble with the car and I was mad and everything else, and I hadn't seen Dave for about eight months now, or seven months, or something like that, and I drove in there and these two young boys come out and they said what's wrong with the car. I think it was a tire or the battery, or it might have been both - but I told them it wouldn't pick up on me - and they said move it out of the way of the pumps - so I pulled it over a little bit - and before I pulled it over, somebody tapped me on the back and said sure long time no see. I turned around and it was Dave Ferrie, and I said what you been doing and he said nothing much. You know that kind of stuff. And he said you still on Elysian Fields and I said yes and I said well I'll see you later I'm in a little bit of a rush, Dave. So they, or I pulled the car over to get out of the way of the pumps which were - I think <sup>there</sup> were

two sets, but I don't exactly remember that. So I pulled over there and Dave was at a car right next to me. About five feet apart, about twice the width of this - I just happened to pull it over there, no other place to put it. And he just went back to the car, evidently he was talking there before, I don't know. So I had occasion to - I'd make a couple of remarks about Dave, you know I knew the guy and would say a few things to him - and he was with this buddy who was sitting in the car with him, but he was sitting - Bertrand was sitting at the driver's seat and Ferrie was sitting in the front seat next to him, and I was sitting over here in my car with the door open smoking a cigarette or doing something and everything once in a while I would say Dave, what's been going on, something like that, and Dave would have to turn around like this because his back was to me and when he did Bertrand was sitting like this in the car - I don't know if he had his legs crossed but he was sitting in this position, and I was over there about 10 feet away in my car and Dave would turn around and say something back.

Q. That was the same man?

A. Yes, that was the same guy.



- Q. Now let's go back to the party - what you called the party - in 1963. You went up there with other people?
- A. Peterson and Sandra Moffett, yes.
- Q. Ferrie was there, Leon Oswald was there, Clem Bertrand was there, who else was there? That you can recall?
- A. I remember these two Spanish guys because I had seen them, I think, before. (Inaudible) was his name, his last name, he was one guy and the other guy Manuel, but I don't know the last name.
- Q. Was this the party where you heard them sit down and talk about the President?
- A. Afterwards - yes. You see, in other words, this was a party and they were listening to records.
- Q. How did that come about?
- A. I was - Lefty just sorta of drifted out of the picture - in other words, he left, you couldn't count on Lefty - you didn't know if he would leave or stay - I figured he was coming right back so I just stayed - and Sandra went out talking to some one of the boys in there and they left - pretty soon everybody just started filtering out - then there was left Ferrie, Oswald, Bertrand and me. So that didn't make any difference maybe the party was dying - that didn't make any difference, I was looking

for a ride. Ferrie had to either give me a ride or I would get a ride with Lefty. So I just stayed - I didn't push myself and say give me a ride, so I would every once in a while get up and Oswald didn't like me - and I didn't like him either - and Bertrand had been introduced to me - he always dressed good, I mean ....

Q. He was dressed well this night?

A. Oh yes, he always stuck out like a sore thumb - everybody else - I don't even remember what he was wearing but I sure remember what he was wearing. Ferrie always wore these baggy pants and dirty old white shirts with short sleeves and these Spanish guys - they wore jeans and kahkis, stuff I would play ball in, the two young boys were dirty and Oswald was always dirty ...

Q. Now it boils down to the four of you in the room of Dave Ferrie's apartment?

A. Yes, in the living room.

Q. Before the conversation got started was there any conversation about you?

A. Well, Oswald said - first they started looking at me. I felt a little conspicuous about that - then I would get up every once in a while - and Ferrie would start talking and there would be some hesitation - stuff like that - then I would go outside on the porch

and look around to see if Lefty was around - I wanted to go home. And I would go back in and then Oswald asked Ferrie what the h--- is he doing here, or something to that effect. And Ferrie said he is all right, he doesn't know anything, just a student, and that kind of stuff. Then Bertrand looked at me real bad and I had said something to him when I walked in, I said I remember you, and he said he did not remember me, and he might not have remembered me, but I don't forget faces. I walked in the court and they had this big heavy sheriff and I pointed at him and said I know you from somewhere and said let me think about it and said baseball, and he said something about umpire for a league and I said you got a real loud mouth, I didn't mean it in a bad way, so after I walked in and shook hands with this guy I said I know you from somewhere don't I, and then I said you went to the Nashville Wharf and he looked at me, but I don't remember what he said, then I said I thought you were a secret service man, then he laughed and I thought no secret service man could be in this dump. So he said no, I couldn't be a secret service man, and that killed that idea. That was all for that.

Q. What was Dave Ferrie doing at this time?

Well, Ferrie was trying to calm everybody's nerves about me being there, and pacing up and down - he would always pace up and down when he got excited.

Q. Did he have anything in his hands?

A. He had these clippings, a bunch of clippings, of Kennedy. I could see two or three of them - Kennedy's name in headlines, they were cut out of the paper and maybe on the 7th or 8th clipping I could see a picture of Kennedy down below. Of course all of them were about Kennedy. But of course I wasn't real sure of that.

Q. Did Dave get into the conversation?

A. Well, I would keep getting up - I would walk out on the porch and look around - and I'd come back in - and it was getting late - late for me, it was about 2:00 o'clock. And I was real tired and I figured that I might have to catch the bus - and they ran only once every hour. So they started talking and Ferrie walking up and down and he was telling when they shoot the president they're going to have 3 people - and he always did this, I can remember this to this day, he had big hands, to me they were big hands and he would stick his fingers up like that, fat fingers, and he would go like that, and he would say when they shoot him there's got to be 3 of us

and he would point like this, now one of them is going to have to go, going to have to be the scapegoat in the procedure. The other two - if this guy is the scapegoat these guys go free. He says now if necessary, they might have to use two scapegoats - because if they have two scapegoats this one gets to go free, for he says ... he talked during the summer - want me to back up a little bit?

Q. Yes. Go ahead. Is this the first time he talked about assassination?

A. Oh no, he talked about perfect murders, assassination is one of the things he talked about. He talked about ... he said that in 1956, I don't know if that is right or not, Eisenhower came down in New Orleans and said a woman got real close to his car and opened up a purse, just a woman from the street, on Decatur St., he might have been talking about the Sesquicentennial, I don't know. She got all the way up close to Eisenhower and opened up her purse like this before somebody stopped her - and now if she wanted to sacrifice herself she could do it. He talked like that - I said well, I am not sure for they've got all kinds of secret service men around. This was during

the summer he talked all about that, but he never talked about Kennedy, he just talked theoretically, what was working in his mind and all that. And/you could do, why you could do, and all that - he also talked about the President of Mexico, Mataeo, I think, he said that if you got an auditorium or a big gathering place where the President was speaking, said you get the President speaking in Mexico City and you got 20,000 people out in the group he said all you need to do is have 2 people, one of them is going to be the scapegoat, the other guy is not, the first guy just shoots a shot up in the air and everybody in the group turns around and looks at him, the police start going at him like crazy and at that split second you can hear it in your ear, he said, the guy in the front takes a well calculated aim and he shoots him 30 or 50 feet away and he said you can't miss. He said in the confusion the second shot is not always audible, everybody is always running and scared and the police are running, he said the second guy can get away, but the first guy - that's too bad for him.

Q. Let's go back to the point when Ferrie was talking and using his hand and the 3 fingers, what did he say about diversionary fire?

A. Well, I may have given a wrong idea at that trial, a diversionary fire did not mean that one guy just shoot up in the air like the two guys in the Mexico thing, all 3 of them were going to shoot at the President but this guy is diversionary in the sense that he is going to take the brunt of all the people who will come at him and he will let them catch him - there's is nothing he can do. Somebody has got to get caught. And you need 10 to 12 men to let the others escape - and he said that these 3 would all to shoot at the President, the first one is going/try and get him just like the other 2 are going to try and get him, he says now if the President in the middle of this crossfire , he was talking about Kennedy here, said if President Kennedy is in the middle, at the precise moment all 3 of them shoot at the President and all of them are aiming to shoot him dead in his tracks, and he said one of them is going to be sacrificed - and he said this is diversionary man, he is to fire that diversionary shot, that first shot, and he is going to get caught and the other 2 in the confusion these 2 assassins are to do the job if the first one didn't do it. He said no way in the world one shot

can kill a President, except you are 15 feet away from him and blooey ...

Q. In the discussion what was said about escape routes?

A. Yes, he talked about this first, I believe - said - he started talking about this - he did most of the talking, said either we could fly to - the exit would have to be by flying, I am the pilot and know all about flying - he is the greatest thing who ever flew - so he said - and Bertrand had a different opinion, but he said that you would either fly ... we have two things that we can do, once the assassination is effected, don't get caught, he said, they fly to Mexico and then on to Brazil, no extradition, said they would fly to Mexico, refuel, and stay maybe 4 or 5 minutes, whatever it takes, or that is the one route or fly directly to Cuba and Ferrie said if you fly to Cuba though the people might shoot you down, says if they don't know who you are then Bertrand got in an argument with him ...

Q. With Ferrie?

A. Yes. Then Bertrand said No, you can't stop to refuel, in Mexico, under any circumstances, because as soon as the shot is fired, even if they miss, the whole world knows that the President has been shot at. Even



if you miss you cannot stop in Mexico the authorities will grab you - anything that looks like its suspicious they will grab you.

Q. So he and Ferrie got into an argument, or beef, about the .. about going to Mexico?

A. Yes.

Q. Was there anything else discussed at that time?

A. Well Oswald got into it too. He jumped on Bertrand, not physically, and said let him alone, damn it, or words to that effect, he knows what he is doing, he is the pilot - and Bertrand turned to him and said he was a washed-up son-of-a-bitch and that was all to that. Then Ferrie, after some argument, said well there is an alternative escape, but it wasn't an escape, you know - which he explained, and he said we, and I suppose he meant all 3 of them, I don't know, could be in the public eye on the day of the assassination. And he said just be that way and hve all the witnesses listening to you, seeing you, doing things with you, and he said there is no way they can do anything about it - bunch of rumors, but that is all. He said nothing they can do about it.

Q. Did Ferrie make any comment?

A. Ferrie told me, or told them, he was going to South-

eastern and make a speech.

Q. That's at Hammond?

A. Yes, Hammond, La.

Q. Did Bertrand make any comment?

A. He said he could arrange to go on business for his Company to the west coast.

Q. Did Oswald say where he would be?

A. No, if he did I didn't hear it. He was kind of detached. He sat there and he would take part here and take part there, same way at the party he did not say one thing to anybody except the Spanish guy, he might have said a few remarks to him. If he is going to go somewhere he is going to go on his own, you know. He will tell you later or say I'll let you know, you know, that kind of stuff.

Q. Did you know whether or not Oswald was married?

A. I had the idea because Ferrie was talking about it -

Q. About Oswald's wife?

A. I don't know, now I am just assuming this, but I walked in, it was an afternoon or early evening, and Ferrie and I were standing there and they had a big beef going on - and Oswald said she is all pissed off, and Ferrie said don't worry about it I'll handle it and all that, let it go, I'll handle it. I told Dave I said see you later and

left.

Q. What was the fourth time you saw Oswald?

A. Sometime in October.

Q. How was he dressed at this time?

A. He was clean had a white shirt on and most of the time he just slouched, but not this day. I was only there a few minutes, he was standing up talking to Dave and had his back to me, they were just shooting the breeze and just talking.

Q. Do you know where he had been?

A. Well, Dave, in a conversation said something about Mexico.

Q. What was the conversation about, what happened?

A. Well, I walked in and evidently he was moving - that's the impression I got - he had some bags sitting right here ..

Q. Qswald?

A. Yes. They were his bags, and Dave said where you going, somebody going to meet you, and all that stuff. He said to Oswald about Mexico, he had been there and he did not like it or he had some trouble, he got into police trouble - he said something to that effect - might have been plane trouble for all I know, or car trouble - I didn't enter that conversation, I don't enter those kinds of conversation. He was a nut and Ferrie was interesting, but he was a nut too.

Q. Can you describe Oswald's bags?

A. They were leather - you know when you are a kid in school you have these little leather pouchs that you put outside your bike and carry your school books in - this was a big leather, big, big thing like that and it had all kinds of junk stuffed in it and on the outside were these 2 pouches - looked like stuff that you find in grammar school - like a kid would have - I have had them - some kind of thing like that and they were made out of canvas, heavy canvas like you would buy in an Army goods store, it was not rich stuff - you might pay \$10.00 - \$15.00 for it. You wouldn't pay any money for it.

Q. Now you talked about seeing Clem Bertrand at the Nashville Wharf, in Ferrie's apartment, the night they were talking about killing Kennedy, and at the service station - do you know whose service station it was?

A. Dave & Al's, I think - but I am not sure.

Q. When was the fourth time you saw Bertrand?

A. I believe it was on Dauphine St.

Q. Was this the day before he was arrested?

A. No - I think it was - the day before he was arrested.  
Because Andy had asked me do you think you could make

positive identification - and I said I couldn't forget this guy in a thousand years - and he said well we know where he lives and I think that is the first time you told me what his name was. His name was Shaw. Because I never asked you - I didn't care - I didn't want to know anything about it.

Q. You mean Schiambra told you?

A. Yes, Andy. And so he arranged it and we went out and we waited at his house on Dauphine St. We just waited there and waited there and pretty soon a friend of his went in.

Q. A friend of who?

A. Shaw - Bertrand. Went into his house, into his apartment and then maybe half an hour later, about 12:00 o'clock - policeman during the day - cause I know there was a ~~detective~~ there named McGilla the gorilla - a detective - and he had been sitting there for a few hours - I think we got there about 1:00 o'clock and finally this man who went in left and when he did he stuck his head out, like this, outside the door, shake hands and I'll see you later. We were about 15 or 20 feet away from the door he stuck his head out about this much and I told him, I said that's him, he's got muscles in his face - not like anybody else's face - so I said no, Andy, that's him. No problem at all.

And he said, no we got to make positive. And I said I'm positive. And he said would you mind waiting a little longer - and I said no, not really I wanted to get back to work, to Baton Rouge, so finally we waited around and waited around and he never came around, he got suspicious, I think, he looked out the bathroom window up there or the kitchen window, he kept looking out there, or somebody kept looking ~~at~~ out there and finally I said, we had talked about this before, I said let me go up and knock on the door. If he comes out I can recognize him, if he doesn't come out I will ask for the head of the house so I can sell him insurance. Somebody said OK so I was getting tired - I had been up five hours. So Andy phoned the D.A.'s office and somebody said OK. So anyway I knocked at the door and he answered the door - but they had a colored maid because I saw her come out a couple of times - but he answered the door and when he did I pushed a card in front of his face and said I am Adon Williams, that was the card of mine of a friend in Baton Rouge, I said I am Adon Williams and I represent Mutual, you know the big, quick, hard selling technique - try and get an interview - and I said we are not out to try and sell you insurance - all I want to do - and he stopped me and said what is your

name and I said Adon Williams. Later on he stopped me again and said the same thing. I pronounced it very clearly and I shoved the card in front of his face and he could read it and so I said I want to get an interview, all I want to do is ask questions about your coverage - if its Blue Cross, or words to that effect, and he said I don't need any now. So that was all to that. We were there about maybe 2 minutes. He said if you come back next week perhaps I won't have any friends around and perhaps I could talk to you then. Then he said what's your name again? And I said Adon Williams. Its a funny name, you know. But I guess its the man's real name.

Q. Do you think he recognized you?

A. He asked me my name 3 times, no one ever asked me that before - I thought he did and that's why I was scared to go in there. I was afraid he might say yes, you come on in and leave your buddy outside. I wasn't going in under any circumstances.

Q. Is there any doubt in your mind that this picture you identified of Shaw - that the guy you identified at Nashville Wharf and the guy you saw in the apartment plotting to kill Kennedy, and the guy you saw in the service station talking to Ferrie and the guy you identified when you were with Schiambra who came to

the door at 1313 Dauphine, is all one and the same guy.?

A. Yes, you don't forget his face. I am absolutely sure of that, Mr. Dymond and nobody else can shake me in that - I told Mr. Garrison the other day even if they get a guy who looks exactly like him, the man has a certain personality, he has a certain nature about him, he always dressed good, and he talks a certain way and nobody can fool me that much. They might fool me but they won't fool me that much - I am sure its the same man.

Q. And you knew him as Clem Bertrand?

A. Yes.

Q. It was the only way you knew him as Clem Bertrand?

A. Yes.

Q. It was not until Andy told you in the D.A.'s office that his name was Clay Shaw?

A. First time I ever heard that. That name.

Q. Did you have occasion to identify him again in the D.A.'s office after his arrest?

A. Yes, evidently you all had subpoenaed him and I knew who he was at that time, I think, sometime right around there - Schiambra and everybody said we want you to make one more identification - so maybe five



or six guys come parading into this room - and they come walking in, I look at them all, and they go walking out - just guys just walking - and all of a sudden he come walking in and I told Mr. Joneau I said that's the man - same man on the street the other day - same man in the service station - same man I saw at the Nashville Wharf - he said are you sure and I said I told you this five times, I cannot be more sure than that. He sat there and ate a sandwich so they asked me if I would discontinue to look at him. Maybe I would see something different - something that he does that is different that he didn't do before - he acts the same, he crosses his legs, he is a little bit bigger around here, acts the same. Don't make no difference, he is the same man, he is big. In Baton Rouge they show me this man here and I say I know him, he asked me to describe him and I say this guy is a monster, wide shoulders like this. And Andy said I thought he was skinny - and I said no he is not skinny, this guy is big, I would not want to tangle with him in a dark alley, you know that is the way I phrased it up there - he is impressively big - I am 6 foot - now he is 6'2, but he is wider than I am,

thicker, looks stronger and has big hands.

Q. The part about the photograph that you identified as the roommate of Ferrie, Leon Oswald, how did that come about?

A. Well, Andy came up to Baton Rouge and wanted me to talk to him to see what I knew. I said I knew Ferrie and knew all his friends, knew some of his friends - I met them a long time ago. Then he started popping pictures in front of me - I don't know if this is one he popped or not - I looked at one and I said that is Dave - and I knew some other guys he showed me pictures of - well anyway he popped a picture of this guy without - well, this is the picture right there - just off the cuff - after about 15 pictures he popped this in front of me and I said oh, yes, I know him as Dave's roommate - I looked at him again and I blocked out the bottom half of his face and I said that's Oswald, isn't it - and Andy said yes, that is Oswald, because they had nothing written on the back. And I said well the guy I knew had light whiskers. Maybe a few days growth - I said his hair was always messed up and he always had on dirty clothes. And he said will you come down to New Orleans and we will get orders for someone to sketch up someone who closely resembles him, I said

OK so I came down that Monday, which was the 27th, and Charlie Joneau and this other guy started with this picture and got an enlargement and started sketching on it so I said that is not anybody, finally they got this one out and ran it on the machine and I said this is him, no doubt in my mind that is the same guy.

Q. After this did you have occasion to meet Dr. Chetta, Coroner, and Dr. Fatter?

A. Yes.

Q. On February 28, 1967 did you under go sodium penthatol?

A. Yes.

Q. Where?

A. Mercy Hospital.

Q. Dr. Chetta was there?

A. Yes, Dr. Chetta, two other doctors and a clerk, me, you, and ....

Q. You were given sodium penthatol in the hospital?

A. Yes.

Q. Then after this did you have occasion to be placed under hypnosis by Dr. Fatter?

A. Yes. I was in Dr. Chetta's office downstairs a couple of days after, I am not sure of the date. On 3 occasions.

Q. 3 occasions, right. F first time in Dr. Chetta's office, his private office? In the Coroner's Office?

A. Yes.

Q. The second time was in Charles Ward's office in the D.A.'s office?

A. Yes. Well I made a mistake on the stand - he asked

Q. me where they were and I said Dr. Chetta's office - I remembered later one was upstairs - I made a mistake - I just said all in Dr. Chetta's office.

Q. And the third time?

A. Downstairs in Dr. Chetta's office.

Q. And during that time Dr. Chetta was always present?

A. Yes.

Q. And Dr. Fatter was the one who put you under hypnosis?

A. Yes - there were always other people present.

Q. Yes, I was there sometimes.

A. And Schiambra.

Q. Yes.

Any questions, gentlemen?

JURORS:

I would like to ask this - because this is what the defense will hammer at: 1, you seemed to associate with unquestionably undesirable people, you know they are going to try to discredit you, I think they tried in the preliminary hearing. I got to admit they have a point.

Why would you, knowingly, associate with bums like this

and why would you bring a young lady to this house, you said Miss Moffett went to this house, with you, to this completely crummy individual's place - what prompted you to associate with people like this?

A. Well, its a hard thing to explain. My mother at this time had been operated on back in '59, '58, something like that, and they knew it was cancer, she always wanted to have people around and I got in the habit, I guess during High School because I was President of the School, president of this, and I collected money for the Key Club ...

Q. What school?

A. McDonogh on Esplanade. And I was always in group things always doing something, in plays or something, and I got in the habit of never condemning anybody for any trouble that ever happened to them - because there were a lot of boys and girls at McDonogh who got in trouble for disciplinary reasons and I just thought these people are good, just because they got into trouble as long as they don't violate the law, if they got booted out of school then I said then there was something I had to forget - not that I am a psychiatrist because I am not - because C. G. Mitchell, a boy my age, he is 24 now - one year younger than I am, he wouldn't go to McDonogh under any circumstances . . . .

I got him to finish at least the 10th year, or 10½ year, and Mrs. Mitchell ... she wants me to come over and eat all the time, and that kind of stuff. I went out of my way to keep him from running away from home, things like that, regardless of what anybody says he is a good boy - I am talking about Mitchell now, this is just another example of a similar type case. I never, never put the skids under anybody because of something they had done in the past, which I don't believe in. But now, getting more to the point, I .. during this time 1959-60, always had a bunch of people around me, some of them were unsavory characters but the great majority of the people I had time to go see and meet were not unsavory people, they were people - some of my friends are lawyers now, doctors, Schorndorff, the Doctor, Jim Clark works with WWL, they were people that to me we did crazy things but we never stole hubcaps, we never used narcotics, we never went out throwing bricks at people, jumped on Negroes, all we did was play basketball and baseball - there were times we had a game that played against Ernest Cato's team, and he is a singer in New Orleans if he is still down here. And there was nothing real criminal about us - nobody had any money - I had

\$8.00 per week to go on to college with and I had to cover my gas and eating money, my mother and father had been having arguments and everything else and my father was tightening up on me because I was taking her side in some of this and so we went like this - nobody ever had any money, we would play cards - we were just having fun - play blackjack, poker - and I was never one that would run anybody away from the house - There ... Now Ferrie had certain things that appealed, he was smart, he was extremely smart, and you could never tell what he would do next. I was young in those days, right now I would think twice about it ...

Q. You said he was a homosexual? You had no question about that.

A. Landry denied it all the way up to the time they broke.

Q. Now didn't you say that he put somebody under hypnosis and had sexual relations with them?

A. No - you see, Al - Mr. Landry told me that Ferrie was a queer. Then Al, I asked Al about it and Al wouldn't tell me the truth - he said, no, that's family, fight, fight, fight --- so anyway about a month after he broke up with Ferrie I thought it was to his best interest that he should, the man had a domination over him, he was just screwing him up so I persuaded him, with my cousin and

Lefty and we would work on him every night - and we would say what the hell you doing you don't even come around here and play ball anymore, I said what's going on, you don't go to school anymore, you don't do anything right anymore, I said you want us to associate with you so anyway he broke up with Ferrie - once after that he told me, he said Ferrie used to hypnotize the guys in the Civil Air Patrol and have sexual relations with them. I was always suspicious of Ferrie, but he never admitted that to me.

Q. Did you believe Landry's story, or did you doubt it?

A. When he said that I believed him.

Q. You believed him? Well after you believed that this fellow was this type of individual, what would prompt you to associate with him, go to his house and bring a young lady to his place? And associate with people like him?

A. It wasn't association, that is what I am trying to get across now - it was not whether - in other words somebody ...

DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

Perhaps it would be easier for the Grand Jury to understand, if you would explain to the gentlemen the physical setup of your apartment and how these meetings came about



and the nature of these meetings and how many people were involved.

- A. Well, you see, over on Elysian Fields, that's 4607, its a regular house and in the back and on the side is a little apartment, which is a little small thing but it was nice. My father did not want me to bring my friends in for fear they might hurt the furniture or hurt something, wreck the place, so I said OK I did not bring anybody into the house and I was out in a side apartment. I also had meetings when we were running for office in High School, I worked a little bit distributing pamphlets for Chep Morrison and stuff like that. I worked - it was just me and my friends - it was big strategy - we would talk about the importance of it and all that. I have pictures in the apartment now of Goldwater, Rockefeller, and stuff like that. I keep it - I have books and books - I used to do all my studying out there. So this place was always open to anybody who dropped by at any time. Now at times there would be conflicting people, I was sensitive to that and I did not want anybody to do any fighting or anything illegal - if you wanted to come, you were invited and you were invited but if you all conflicted the man that initiated the conflict had to leave. Now Dave, never, never did that. He got along

well with everybody. Now my cousin George and I drove him home one night he came over - don't know how he got there - we gave him a ride home and we laughed after he got out of the car, I said boy, that's one nut, you don't know but he is a real nut. Because he had that glued on hair, but he wouldn't help you - like if you were worried about something in school and you hadn't read this book or that one, he had read it and he knew the it, he could tell you/page it was on - and if he hadn't read it he could look through it like this for a while and read the headlines or the bylines and he would tell you what was in it because he had read some other book by the same man, it was a lot easier because you could put everything continuously together. Now, I had been during this period of time, and numerous people I went with, there was on Bourbon St. Clarence Brodman Henry, the singer, he and I had known each other 7 or 8 years - he was a nice guy with 6 or 8 kids, something like that, and whenever I had any money at all that's the place I would go - not strip shows or Al Hirt because I didn't have that kind of money - if I had money I would go up to see Broadman - he was located at the Court of Two Sisters and later on at 545 Bourbon St. I would go there and sit

and talk with him and he showed me real odd nuts that come to the French Quarter so then I had to catch the bus home at night, but it was just the type of people who came over - I wanted people over, I wanted people around - tomorrow morning we might need 9 guys on the baseball team and I am sure I would not throw anybody out if I needed 9 guys on the baseball team. Now we played all kinds of games - I have records that date back to 1957 on all kinds of teams.

Q. Now you witnessed this entire plot being discussed in front of you - and you saw this thing happen and you certainly read about it and thought about it, saw it on television and you didn't come forth with any information on it for a very long time afterwards?

A. Well, all the while I just sat there - I was riding on Broadway and S. Claiborne when I heard the guy say on the radio I am not sure of this report but the President has been shot in Dallas. I turned around automatically and went back to Father Clancy at Loyola, he is a Political Science teacher, and of all the teachers at Loyola I got along with him best. He would fight you with tooth and nail - he loved to fight about things - but I went over there and he got all broke up about it

and I felt sorry for him - and I was walking around in a daze for a while trying to see what had happened so I went home and saw it on TV, listened to the radio, read the newspapers and right and then I thought about it. And I said yes, no, yes, no - and all that - and I said me, I am still in school and I say did I ever come as close as that - I said no, the man looked familiar and maybe he has the same last name to me, but I was working with the Republicans at this time and all during '63 we were campaigning for Lyons' election, then in '64 with the Goldwater thing, and I am just a Republican down through and through and so we had all these names you know IBM cards we had to get ready and all that kind of stuff - I had my own personal cards that I kept on all the people in the 8th Ward - people I could call on - I was 8th Ward Leader in 1964. Then the TV said the FBI said Lee Harvey Oswald did it all by himself. Then I said well, if he did it all by himself then it might not be the same guy for all I know - he had different first name. And I said to myself I am not going to mess up my education to go sit in some courtroom for 3 weeks for something I regret right now - because I will flunk out of LSU for this thing.

And I just regret it to this point right now.

There is a limit as to how much a person can do, Andy said to me when I got down here you have become very important in this case, and I said I don't care how important I am who is going to talk to my boss when I get fired - I say comes out my name in the paper associate with a bunch of queers and he said we will talk to him and see how he feels about it - and they talked to him and Mr. Kenney here in New Orleans said don't worry about it, we are backing you a 100%, you cooperate - well it doesn't make up for a lost month. That/<sup>is</sup>what it amounts to. So I am sitting there and I am 3 or 4 months younger than I am now - to me a lot more mature, I have my eyes set on what I want in life, I am trying to aim toward that and I am sitting there when I am 21 or 22 years old - trying to graduate from school, trying to organize a political campaign for months ahead, and then I am going to go and sit in somebody's office - and I say if they say its right, its right - who am I to argue - there's nobody else, there's a bunch of nuts calling up right now to say yes, I knew him, but I shot him - I used to read these detective cases and these guys would go in and claim they did the murder. Well, you

know something, I did know something, but if the FBI is going to put me in the nut group with everybody else then I am not interested. I guarantee you, I feel deep down about this now, the lady next door said as soon as my name got in the paper 50 people came over to her house, nearly knocking the door down, and all that kind of stuff. And then her little boy who is about 13 - now, this is a byproduct of this - he saw a wreck on East State St. and the kid came in and said I saw a wreck and the mother said/you didn't, you did not see a wreck. And that's the way I felt. Do I sacrifice everything because I knew a guy - well I met a guy up in LSU Saturday of the baseball game and he sat down next to me and \_\_\_\_\_ Cruz is his name, and he got in a fight with Oswald on Canal St. and I said didn't the FBI contact you and he said no, did anybody contact you, no - so I called Mr. Sciambra and I said, Andy, there is a man up here claims he is a .... claims he rode in a police car with Oswald .. and I think he is telling the truth, I know him from a baseball game years back, and I said you want to come talk to him - he will talk but he doesn't want his name in the paper and he doesn't want to sacrifice schooling, he does not want to get involved. Unless I am 100% sure that I saw a man pull a trigger and I am so sure of it - then to

h--- with it - that's what I thought to myself.

Because I say if it took 22 hours on the stand the other day and he asked so many questions - he didn't ask the questions that were important to me, I was willing to tell him that - but do I believe in God? Is that relevant - of course I believe in God - perhaps my God is not the same as yours - I am talking to Father Monsigneur at Loyola and we had hours and hours - and we used to fight tooth and nail - and I said he couldn't prove it to me by Thomas Aquinas that Jesus Christ was the Savior - he couldn't prove to me that God existed by his belief - and I told him you expect me to believe Thomas Aquinas - I can't believe Thomas Aquinas - I said I have my own belief, but its not the same as yours, but I said I could not condemn a Buddist. Im 1921 now, and I figure to myself just starting to register and one day I might run for the House of Representatives in the 8th Ward, and I am going to be classified as one screwball. The only reason they got me - and I regret that I said the first thing about it now. Because it just takes hours - I can't make up for the lost time - and I am \$5600.00

in debt and unless somebody wants to come pay my bills

which they are not paying and I am sure Shaw is not paying, I have to pay for it and unless somebody does I am the one who is suffering and I am not that interested. Who was involved and who wasn't - I am willing to get up and make a statement to them, I will make it to the Judge and I will make it to you all, now if someone doesn't want to believe then to hell with it. As far as I am concerned for if they don't want to believe it is their business. I have had enough of this. In the past - you just get involved - and your life is not yours anymore. At home Dymond's investigators are snooping around up there, they have asked my friends if they are willing to testify - what are they going to testify to that I rob hubcaps, I am a homosexual, I am a drug addict - the D.A. knows everything about me, and my past and I told them this I said I am not going to let you all get caught with your drawers down because there are a couple of errors in my past because like I went to a psychiatrist - but don't make a big issue of it because you might get the psychiatrist on the stand and he will tell you- I say there is a bunch of humbug in my family, I flunked a couple of tests at Tulane, I said I went



to him because I needed to talk to somebody and I told them so they would know it beforehand. I am telling you what I know and that is it. But I am the one who is getting stung by this and I am the one on trial. That is what it is going to amount to and when this trial is over - and if it is going to be a month - I can't take a month. I am not saying I will disappear - but all I can say is what I saw. And he is not going to shake me, he might accuse me of everything in the book but he is not going to shake me. And I can't be any better than that. I told Mr. Garrison, I told him they can bring anything in but they are not going to shake me from that. The man has got a muscle face, speaks intelligently, he is well read, I have met this man, now I am not accusing him of anything - if they give him a \$100,000.00 reward I don't care - I am not bloodthirsty that I want him to go to jail because it just does not make that much difference to me. I am more interested in some of the stuff getting finished - and just living - its just wrecked my life - now I am really sorry, and I know there are hundreds of other people that have been up there - can get up there and tell something about Ferrie

but you think they are going to come up there and tell what they know - my aunt and my uncles said to me you are a damn fool for getting in this, what do you want, and I said I don't want anything and they said they are going to hound the hell out of you - and I thought twice about it now - I have my second thoughts about it now, but I can't get out of it now because I have made my statement and I stand by my statement - I will never change it because that is the way I remember it. And I have a 153 I.Q. and I should be able to remember something and I remember it that way. And nobody can shake me from it. But if I am going to get my whole life just stung and burnt because of this humbug I am not interested. I am not even .... because Shaw's 20 years in jail or Shaw's life could not make up for a day that I lost in my life because I am trying to get out on my own - I was \$6800.00 in debt on November 11, 1966, I am now \$5416.00 in debt - I keep a card on everything - I can't go out on dates - I have everybody come to my house , its a lot easier because you are paying rent anyway so let them come over. We have parties in Baton Rouge - now if they want to get a bunch of people testifying against me about parties

they can - I don't care - but they cannot change my mind. I was there and I saw it. That man was there, that man took part in the conversation and I was there and saw him, now I don't care if a thousand people come up here and say Clem Bertrand or Clay Shaw ... they are not going to change my mind, and I don't care what you all think, if you all think adversely well - I am not going to change if I go to jail for it. To me its reality the way I saw it and I have suffered enough for it and I expect at the trial - I am so bitter about this - and so mad about that - I called up here yesterday in a nice way to ask Andy about something and such and such and what about a permit to carry a gun because I don't want anybody coming over to my house and messing me up because when a man calls me up, or calls the office, and says will you come out here and write \$100,000.00 life insurance I am on my way, but the same day, this March 13, when this man, Hugh Marrero called the office and asked that I come out to his house, which is very rare, you don't often have a man call you and say come out and write me \$100,000.00 - this just doesn't happen, but he called the office and he was a Cuban exile - I talked to him on the phone when

I got back, 7 days later, I called his office.... his house and I said this is Perry Russo and he said yes, and he barely spoke English, he said my father, who doesn't speak any English, wants a hospitalization policy so I said well what time would be convenient, I am losing not just a sale from other sales I would be making but I am losing preferred leads which you can't estimate what that is worth. You just have to guess them. You are losing a big hunk of money over the next ten years so now I went out to his house about five times I rode around his house, and the only reason I went into his house is because he had his name on his mailbox. Hugh Marrero, that was his name. And I said if this guy puts his name on his mailbox I guess he is not going to shoot me. So I went in and we talked and he asked me all about Garrison and the probe and all that and I just shot the breeze with him. I would like to get the story, I told him, the father was 58 and did not speak English - I suppose he was telling the father the things I was telling him but I talked a while, and they talked in Spanish back and forth - and that was that. I am sorry I got involved.

- Q. Mr. Russo, going back to 1963 and the second visit  
Lefty  
to Ferrie's apartment, when you/and Sandra went up  
and Lefty  
there, was Sandra/also introduced to Clay Bertrand?
- A. No, they weren't. They were not introduced to anybody.  
Here is the thing, I was the leader of my group and I  
was the one who always spoke - they were there - I  
don't recall they could say his name, maybe they could,  
see  
but you/Ferrie always made it a point to make me feel  
at home because he knew I was the outlet for what he  
wanted, I guess, that's the way I look at it back now.
- Q. What do you mean, outlet for anything he wanted?
- A. Well, in other words, I was always suspicious of the  
guys I mentioned before, but the only one ever accused  
Ferrie of that was Landry, he said yes it happened with  
Ferrie at the CAP and all that kind of stuff. So I  
said OK to that, although he was suspicious he was a  
weird character, don't associate with young boys for,  
you know, unless some purpose ... I got a lot of young  
kids playing for me in a baseball team, but there is a  
purpose to that and when a baseball game is ~~on~~ <sup>over</sup> they go  
on, I tell them go on home and when they are late I get  
mad and fuss and all that kind of stuff ...

but what happened was he brought up the stuff about this drug and Ferrie's roommate, but he never accused himself either but he got to be the biggest indictment he made against himself ...

Q. He never made any advances to you?

A. No, never, he knew if he would the antagonism he caused before he was treading on thin ice then, the stuff with Landry, I broke them up, but they were lovers or something, ....

Q. You say he came to your house at 2:00 in the morning?

A. Well, you see I was studying all hours of the night -

Q. What was the purpose of these visits?

A. He just dropped in -

Q. What did you talk about?

A. Any number of things, just normal conversations ...

Q. Philosophical?

A. Yes - just depends on what kind of mood I was in -  
in he would leave,  
if I wasn't/the mood to tolerate him/ if I had  
finished a book and was tired I would stop studying,  
light a cigarette and start shooting the breeze.

Q. Did other people you met at Ferrie's house impress you as being homosexual?

A. Well of course Bertrand, but I had not from meeting him  
no, at the wharf, he did. Now I took it for granted

that the roommate was - I got the impression that he was married too.

Q. Do you know who owned this service station you referred to? Did Ferrie own it?

A. I don't know if he owned it or was just working there - it was a Gulf station - I hadn't seen Ferrie for some months - I just drove in. He had a little Gulf hat on - I don't know if he owned it or not, but I think the name was Dave & Al - I think that was the name up there.

Q. You don't really know that this was Dave Ferrie's gas station?

A. Oh no, he didn't say that.

Q. What kind of gas station was it? Gulf?

A. Gulf, yes.

Q. Now you said Dave had a Gulf hat on?

A. Yes, Gulf.

Q. A Gulf station hat - not a golfing hat.

A. Yes - I hadn't seen him for some months. Ferrie was the type you would see him 3 weeks at the time and then you wouldn't see him at all. He was a very mysterious fellow.

This was real important to me, I was trying to interpret

Ferrie, he was broke the whole time I knew him he was

a broken down old man, from having a mind that could

perhaps put on ....

Q. This was what attracted you to him perhaps?

A. No no, in '64? Well I only him maybe 5 or 6 times in '64.

Q. That was after Kennedy was killed?

A. Maybe a little more, but I doubt it.

Q. You never discussed the fact that ...

A. We never discussed anything - he was still at the filling station and he asked me are you still at Elysian Fields? Well, I might drop over and he said ... and he brought over some films, hard core pornography, one roll - one night about 10:00 o'clock or 11:00 o'clock. And he said he got this from Cuba, said he could get all he wanted, that kind of bunk, and so I said yes, yes, yes - and I started rolling it with my hand just to see how it looked, what it was like, and this guy he showed me a picture of, I said he was one of the guys in the film, anyway I just kept the films . . .

Q. Clay Bertrand?

A. No, no, this other guy - this Cuban guy - I forget his name - and that is the first time I ever saw anything like that.

Q. You said that the night you overheard this plot that



you were sensing that these people were supposedly homosexuals, you mean that they were not trying to make anybody, they were just talking about trying to kill somebody?

A. At the party?

Q. After they all left - wasn't there any pairing off or something like that?

A. No - you see, Bertrand, he was kind of dignified - Ferrie was too smart - now the other guy, Oswald, I mean I .....

Q. Wasn't that out of character for the whole three?

A. For these 3 it was, but they were a particular brand that you didn't meet every day - like Ferrie, he made that slip once, about the roommate, saying the roommate had made love to him, became v ery amorous, that's the way he put it, but didn't remember anything afterwards, and I said if he didn't remember anything what did he do? He didn't cover that. I didn't ask him. Why should I ask him, that's the way I felt.

Q. Was the roommate Oswald -

A. Yes, that was the only roommmate he ever had that I knew of - before he lived with his mother out in Kenner.

Q. By the way, you mentioned his mother, and I notice that when he died nobody claimed his body - does his mother live here?

A. Well, his mother died. She died in 1963.

Q. You say that Oswald was the only roommate Ferrie ever had?

A. That I ever knew. The only one I ever run into.  
I guess he had a lot of others, because there are some  
crazy guys.

Q. Even though he introduced him as a roommate you don't know that Oswald actually stayed up there?

A. Oh, No. When we drove up in his car - the guy was sitting out on the porch and he had mentioned before about the drug and that stuff, and I had never met that guy - and he said that's my roommate.

Q. You never saw the man spend the night there or anything?

A. No. Never have.

Q. The last time you saw Ferrie was in 1964?

A. Yes, I doubt if it was in 1965 - but possibly one time in '65, you know - he was always a dynamic - you knew what he stood on everything -

Q. You mean about 5 times in '64 when the President was  
though  
killed? Even/you said that you had this feeling when  
the President was killed that you - you never tried to  
discuss it with Ferrie at all on those 5 or 4 occasions?

You must have thought about it a great deal and wanted to talk about it?

A. Well, I thought about it, but you see I graduated in '64-

and I was getting ready for law school and I was not particularly interested in Ferrie's phantasies anymore - at that time of my life. The fantastic world of curing cancer, curing leukemia and everything else - you know that was for the storybooks and all of this stuff before of 8 months or a year - and Ferrie didn't bring it up, if he talked at all - I would see him for about 5 minutes here, 10 minutes here, all that kind of stuff, and he talked about Jefferson Parish, the D.A., he didn't mention Garrison, but everybody was harassing him, the FBI was after him, and I thought he was becoming paranoid or something. He was becoming well persecuted and he was broken, in other words, you say something and he would attack you right away, he knew all the ways to attack, and he would say well, what did you say, what did you do - and you were on the defensive and he would have you up against the wall - until he makes a big fool of you. So I learned that the first few minutes of meeting with him, you didn't argue with him, he knew everything ...

Q. You said you met him about 5 times, at least on 5 occasions in '64, how much time did you spend with him on these 5 occasions?

A. No longer than 10 minutes - I can't remember any long period of time except maybe once when he talked about the

police - I remember one distinct time I spent a little time with him - he mentioned G. Wray Gill's name. He was an investigator or he was <sup>a</sup>/lawyer for him - he couldn't get a law degree, but he was something for G. Wray Gill, and I don't know if I met him in '65 or not, maybe I did - I don't know ...

Q. And you said he was broke by then? Financially?

A. When he was living on La. Ave. Parkway. I knew something had happened - I didn't know the Civil Air Patrol was busted up, I didn't know he was fired from Eastern Airlines. I just assumed all these things. Because you didn't ask Ferrie questions. You don't ask him, he will tell you if he wants to and if he doesn't want to, forget it. That's the way he was.

Q. In all these meetings he never made a play for you?

A. I think he had ideas. He suggested he wanted to try me with that drug - I said no - and that is the nearest he ever came to it. I said I don't take drugs unless my doctor gives them to me.

Q. Al Landry obviously lived with him for a while?

A. Now I don't know that, now Landry has never told me that, and Ferrie never told me that. Now Landry went out to the country with him, Landry told me he went out to the country with him.

Q. How old was Landry - about your age, younger or older?

A. I don't know how old - I think he is 23 now - I think he is 2 years younger than I.

Q. The time you are talking about he was about 18?

A. Yes, about 18 - you see I think he had written notes to his family saying this old man - stuff like that ...

Q. Were you surprised to learn that a man of Ferrie's evident abilities working in a service station?

A. Everything was surprising about Ferrie. The biggest surprise of all to me was that Ferrie, with a mentality - I haven't met a man yet with the mentality he had - or like him up here - and he was making money for Eastern - Landry told me he was making \$1800.00 a month with Eastern Airlines - I don't know if that is true or not, that's a big amount to me - but he was so many contrasts, he was all of these things and yet he had airplane glue, it looked like to me, and stick on his hair - he could have gotten an expensive wig - how much, \$300.00 a real good one - but he didn't do that - he stuck out, and you never could forget Ferrie.

Q. The night of the party when everyone left and they started discussing this plot, I just wonder how Ferrie was able to reassure them as to your presence for this

is a very serious plot and the fact that you were not part of this group, and they had obviously discussed it before, and the fact that he could say he was OK it is surprising that they would accept you for something as serious as what they went on to discuss in front of you. For how long did they continue the discussion?

A. First, this discussion must have lasted a couple of hours. I'd be out on the porch smoking ... back in ...

Q. How did you get home that night?

A. I think I caught the bus, I don't think anybody ever left - they never left - I did not ask for a ride, I never ask anybody for a ride, he knew I was waiting. To ask why did - you see Ferrie was so all prevailing - if Ferrie said it you went the long way to fight him about it, now I don't know if or how many occasions they had discussed this before, as I looked at it there were 3 quacks sitting down discussing it, that was all.

Q. Is that the way you viewed it - 3 quacks?

A. 3 quacks - Ferrie was a quack - now Bertrand was the only one that didn't fit the quack description, but as everybody says why did I associate with such a bunch for - killed by association - Oswald was a quack.

He was so detached he didn't care about anything.

Ferrie just dominated everybody, you just didn't have room to argue, if he said it was that way you accepted it for what he said or got off the boat. That's all there was. And for somebody to have said Ferrie couldn't have done that - Mr. Dymond made reference to how in the hell could a man so intelligent as Shaw and so well read as Oswald was supposed to be - I think he was kind of well read - could they have said they would take the word of Ferrie. Well a man who would say that couldn't have known Ferrie. Couldn't ever have known Ferrie. You have to know Ferrie to get across what I mean. I met quite a few people and I have always been one to agitate a group and lead a group, to run for office - we sold candy bars in High School, Nestles Crunch, we bought 1600 of these things for 50¢ a box - I sold 1400 of them. By one means or another. Get a person to listen to you. Ferrie was not just getting a person to listen to you, it was charm - you didn't have any choice although he did not put you at ease, he was ... he did not put you at ill at ease, he was smart enough to handle you that way. They probably didn't like it - they didn't like it in the very beginning - they didn't join in the conversation until

later - Oswald and I didn't like each other from the beginning - it was just one of those things, I just didn't specifically sit down like this - like you all are sitting around the table now - looking at each other. I didn't sit like that.

Q. Was this a monologue on Ferrie's part?

A. Most of it except when they would differ as to what they should do about it - do it this way differently, it would be better this way - no, we can't do it this way because ...

Q. Did you contribute any ideas?

A. No, except I was just getting up and saying I want to go home. I might have made those kind of remarks.

Q. Did you have any occasion to hear anyone say what was the motivating fact for doing in the President?

A. Now you would have to back up a couple of years with Ferrie. It was Ferrie again. I don't know if it was the motivating factor with Bertrand and Oswald was - but I can tell you the motivating factor of Ferrie was. Back in 1962, I guess, whenever the blockade started, all before that he was all - Castro had to go, Castro was this and this and all that kind of stuff - Castro had served his purpose, he had helped get rid of Baptista, he had helped get rid of private property, he had helped



get rid of all these private enterprise things,  
I don't know if Ferrie was a communist or not, but  
anyway he had reached a point now that he couldn't  
go any further, he would never let the government  
go kapoot and disappear, he was always going to be  
be there and if it wasn't him it was going to be Raoul,  
if it wasn't Raoul it would be (inaudible), or somebody  
like that - I knew the whole Hierarchy of Cuba - all  
right, then Kennedy came along and put a blockage in  
and then Ferrie turned the most violent - he never  
talked that much about Kennedy before, he turned around  
like a pfoof - and all the hate, I don't mean hate,  
but the idea of Castro wanting to get rid of him turned  
into hate against Kennedy for he idolized the Spanish  
people - Kennedy was now starving the Spanish people,  
all this bullshit about letting medicine go through was  
a bunch of bullshit, he said he knew cause he had been  
down there and there wasn't letting medicine go through  
he said he was starving the Cuban people, said he had  
already bankrupt them by American tourists not going  
there and spending their money - and he said now he  
was getting this organization of Americas States he said  
they would put all these economic sanctions and all that

stuff and he said Kennedy was a real no-good fellow, he didn't phrase it that way but that's what he meant. Well you know what provoked that - because I was critical of Kennedy's policies in that area, I was critical of the fact that he allowed the Russians to build up and all that. I would say the first word and he would start talking for hours, hours and hours. This was when he was at the height of his glory I guess. And he changed from this anti-Castro program, get rid of Castro, to get rid of Kennedy, get him out of the picture, he said Johnson would be a better President anyway as he was more concerned with domestic problems. He said he knew how to handle the Senate, had been in it for years, said he was a majority leader and all that kind of humbug, and he said listen, if we get rid of Kennedy he said Johnson will make a much better President, he said he knows much more about legislation, knows more about Congress, and he'll be a much better President. He said he's not that much anti-Cuban, says he is more for the people. Ferrie was interested in that and whether that was the motive or not, I don't know. And whether this is by luck or chance that they all got together, I don't know. But Ferrie was, you know ...

Q. Were these 3 the only people involved?

A. No, I didn't get the impression they were involved.

I got the impression that they had other people involved. Ferrie was the brains and these 2 guys were the Lieutenants. That's the way I got it.

Q. You think there were more people involved?

A. I think so. But I don't know who they may be - it could be the guys at the party, I don't know. I never saw these guys at a party again.

Q. You think these were the master plotters and there were some other people involved?

A. Well, I got the impression Ferrie would fly out if he was assassinated, but Ferrie was not going to pull a gun - pull a trigger - I got that impression because he said I am the pilot and I know all about this, this was back in - at the party, and Bertrand said you are all washed, you can't fly, and all that kind of stuff.

Q. He didn't take exception to that?

A. Well that is the only comment I can remember Bertrand getting hot and bothered about - and Ferrie, look, you get all you want off with Ferrie, but he is going to put you down - in a nice way. He didn't say anything bad back. He said if you don't like that, he said, then make sure we are in the public eye. What could be more

logical than that?

Q. Do you recall anything that Bertrand contributed to the argument?

A. He argued with Ferrie, said we can't go by Mexico - we get down there and the Mexican authorities will stop us.

Q. BY MR. ALCOCK:

Did you get the impression that Shaw or Bertrand were being financed?

A. Yes - there was a bit about that - I wondered about that.

Q. What made you wonder about that?

A. I have to think about that - something was said about that now you bring that money business up - I got to remember what was said - you see all of these were derelicts, none of them worked, that I got that impression - Bertrand, he looked like he worked - maybe something was said - if I took a little time ....  
Ferrie

Q. Did ~~you~~ have any income at the time?

A. I just assume that he didn't - he had just moved from that nice house in Kenner and now he was in an apartment on La. Ave. Parkway and that place was always upside down.

Q. What kind of refreshments did you have there?

A. Beer sometimes, I never did see whiskey but I am sure

it was around, coffee, and there were always plates around with ashes, cigarettes stuck in them, coffee cups and all around the side of the coffee cup - evidently coffee from the night before - evidently somebody had been up there and they had sat and shot the breeze and always cigarette butts just stumped in the coffee cups. I took a coke - I wasn't drinking that much, I didn't drink that much, period. I used to drink when I had money, but I left college and thought of paying off college I don't drink period. I'll drink a beer every once in a while, a vodka collins, something like that.

Q. Ferriess apartment must have been in pretty bad shape?

A. Oh, it was always - I never saw it cleaned up. He had a piano there and one night I went out there and he could play - could play Tschaikovsky- just get up there and bang on the piano and he knew all these songs by heart, I mean you know - he hadn't played in 17 years and he played all of these famous tunes - I could recognize the tune I had heard it before ... said he hadn't played in 17 years ...

Q. Perry, did you get the impression from the conversation among the 4, when it first started, that perhaps they had discussed this or similar matters prior to this?

- A. It had to be, but it just started off by - these guys had already talked - you just don't start off a conversation - like a guy I know, Wayne Luke called me and said we going to have a baseball team this summer, and I said yes, OK we going to have Joe Doakes and Harry Jones ... I had to talk to him first - we have to have a first meeting to see who will sponsor and all, and how we are going to do it - and that's what I took for granted - they had discussed it - 3 crackpots - they had to, you just don't start a conversation and everybody know what is going on. Because he said, Oswald, shut up he knows what he is doing. He'll handle that end of it. They had to have.
- Q. Would you say they are the top men or do you think there is somebody else? Higher up?
- A. Well at this time I did not know it was so far removed - so remote - you know what I mean, I didn't think about it. I didn't think who were the top men or not.
- Q. Well, would you say they were the instigators of this thing?
- A. I have tried to think about it lately and I figure that Ferrie just doesn't impress me as the top man. But of course, Bertrand fits me as below Ferrie - that's

the way I put them, I put Bertrand and Oswald together, I put Ferrie up here, although he could have these grandiose plans he just didn't seem to have the money or the real will maybe . . . or something.

- Q. The fact that you knew this and didn't say anything about it until the investigation, I'd like to ask how does that have you as accessory after the fact - does that come into the question? That you knew this and you didn't tell anyone or report it? I just want to get clear on that point of law.

BY MR. ALCOCK:

have  
Let me explain that. You/got to do something and further assist and aid and abet the crime. I can be present in the discussion of an armed robbery but if I don't participate or help in a direct way I am not guilty as accessory - now if I hide the gun or do something like that - you have to assist in some way.

- A. Now the first time I came down here I said do you think I need a lawyer? What does this entail? And they said if you think you should have one all right. I said well for one thing I don't consider myself guilty of anything - and I said I am always willing to help you all. If you want information from me I will give you everything I know about it. And about my own affairs and about

Ferrie. And all that - now I just wanted to ask you all right here - people that I have known somewhere - the man right here, I do not recall your name, but I will recall it - the man there at the table .... and the man here. Now from one acquaintance to another I remember you all from somewhere. I remember faces real well. I have no recollection though, but I just want to throw it in because I am going to think of it. And I will send you all a letter saying this because I know you all from somewhere and as soon as I figure it out nobody can shake me from that either. And that's the best I can do here.

Q. Have you ever been in Bertrand's apartment at all?

A. No the nearest I got to it was over on Dauphine at the front door. The patio door.

Q. The night of the party when they discussed this plot, was this rifle that you had seen there previously was this anywhere in the apartment?

A. Well, I have tried to think about that - because Garrison asked me, Dymond asked me, and I tried to think about it but I couldn't place it - so many people around and everybody moving around and there was this Spanish record of some guy making a speech



and all this loud stuff and this guy shrieking like Hitler, you know. And I didn't see it. I tried to think of that and I couldn't place it.

Q. After the assassination Oswald's picture was all over the papers, TV, everywhere, didn't that ring a bell with you?

A. Yes, that's when I first started putting two and two together, but now Mr. Dymond made a big point of that and its not valid. I ~~saw~~ saw 4 photographs of Oswald - except the mug shot they showed me - a bunch of mug shots just straight forward like this - 4 photographs of Oswald - I told Mr. Dymond I saw these 4 photographs hundreds of times, but I did not see hundreds of photographs - and what were they - I saw a guy standing up holding a gun, it was in a magazine or television or something, and he was squinting. Then I saw a baby picture of him, and I saw a picture of him on Canal St. or International Trade Mart distributing pamphlets. Part of a film clip or something. Those were the four ways I never saw him before - I never saw him as a baby -

Q. Were they the only ones that came out?

A. The only ones I can remember - there were probably thousands of them - but I didn't even see that picture they have

of him walking down the hallway in the Dallas Police Station - well I saw it a few days before the trial. I was either right after mid-term examinations or in the middle of them. November 22-23 and all that. And Lee Harvey Oswald got shot - I didn't know a Lee Harvey Oswald - and I don't now - I know a Leon Oswald. Like I don't know a Clay Shaw - I knew a Clem Bertrand. I don't care what Mr. Dymond says about that. I know what I know.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Maureen B. Thiel, do hereby certify that  
the preceding transcript is a true and correct copy of  
the testimony given, under oath, in the preceding matter,  
before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, on the 22nd day of  
March, 1967, and reduced to typewriting by me.

Maureen B. Thiel